

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph immediately before paragraph [0015] of the specification as originally filed.

--[0014A] As shown in Fig. 2, a partial portion of a circumference of the hollow fiber membrane bundle is within the neighboring region (A), and the rest of the circumference of the hollow fiber membrane bundle is within the non-neighboring region (B). The membrane-occupying rate at the partial portion of the circumference of the hollow fiber membrane bundle (i.e., PA) is higher than the membrane-occupying rate at the rest of the circumference of the hollow fiber membrane bundle (i.e., PB (PB1 or PB2)), and the membrane-occupying rate at the rest of the circumference of the hollow fiber membrane bundle (i.e., PB (PB1 or PB2)) is not higher than the membrane-occupying rate at the center (i.e., Z3) of the hollow fiber membrane bundle (i.e., at the boundary of PA and PB1).--